

The Wolff patent is directed to a system wherein the called party has only one phone number, but can be reachable on multiple phones, pagers and/or computers. An incoming call is intercepted, screened and routed according to the wishes of the called party. The Wolff patent requires a complex set of information from the called party in order to screen the call and route it to the appropriate phone or receiving device for the called party and also requires the calling party to provide screening information.

In contrast with the present invention, the called party has incoming calls automatically screened without any additional information having to be obtained or inputted from the called party and/or the calling party. The call announcement service of the present invention automatically performs screening of the incoming call and does not require the called party to provide the screening information. The present invention uses an available national database of telephone numbers to identify the calling party and notify the called party accordingly. The present invention has as its only objective to provide the called party with enough information to screen the call and decide on the proper call disposition. No prior action is required of the called party and the calling party is not allowed to tamper with the screening information.

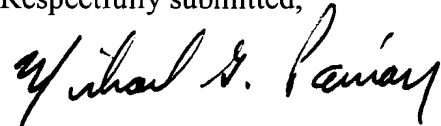
As such, element 40 in Figure 2, for example, of Wolff is not a method for announcing a greeting to the calling party indicating, like the system of the present invention is for notifying the called party about the incoming call, but rather sends the calling party to voice mail in order to allow the calling party to leave a message, as is common with conventional phone answering systems in the prior art. It is respectfully submitted that Wolff does not show any means and/or method for announcing receipt from the calling party to the called party including means and method for audibly announcing the identity of the calling party as described and claimed in the present invention. The Examiner has stated that announcing receipt can read on broadcasting the

caller to the called party or the telephone ring itself with the identity of the calling party shown as described in Wolff. Wolff merely shows conventional caller identification systems for showing the called party who is calling. Wolff does not, however, provide a system as does the present invention wherein an announcement is made to the calling party that the called party is being contacted to determine if the called party is available to answer the call.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Wolff does not show each and every element of the claimed invention, and therefore cannot anticipate independent claims 1 and 9 of the present application. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims, and the remaining claims dependent thereon, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Thus, a favorable action allowing the application is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would be of value in expediting allowance and issuance of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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